

Application No.: 09/323,397

Docket No.: 20402-00584-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A video camera pivoting apparatus comprising:

pivoting means for pivoting a video camera at a pivoting speed, said video camera including a zoom mechanism and zoom amount signal generation means for generating a zoom amount signal;

pivoting speed command signal generating means responsive to an operation for generating a pivoting speed command signal; and

speed controlling means for controlling said pivoting speed in accordance with said zoom amount signal and said pivoting speed command signal;

said pivoting speed command signal generating means having a joystick mechanism to generate said pivoting speed command signal such that a value of said pivoting speed command signal increases at a first rate with respect to an operation angle of said joystick mechanism when said operation angle is not greater than a reference operation angle, at a second rate with respect to said operation angle of said joystick mechanism when said operation angle is greater than said reference operation angle, said second rate being greater than said first rate, said value of said pivoting speed command signal assumes a maximum value when said operation angle of said joystick mechanism is greater than another reference operation angle which is greater than said first-mentioned reference operation angle.

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4. (Previously presented)

A video camera pivoting apparatus comprising:

pivoting means for pivoting a video camera at a pivoting speed, said video camera including a zoom mechanism and zoom amount signal generation means for generating a zoom amount signal;

pivoting speed command signal generating means responsive to an operation for generating a pivoting speed command signal;

speed controlling means for controlling said pivoting speed in accordance with said zoom amount signal and said pivoting speed command signal;

said pivoting speed command signal generating means having a joystick mechanism to generate said pivoting speed command signal such that a value of said pivoting speed command signal increases at a first rate with respect to an operation angle of said joystick mechanism when said operation angle is not greater than a reference operation angle, at a second rate with respect to said operation angle of said joystick mechanism when said operation angle is greater than said reference operation angle, said second rate being greater than said first rate; and

wherein said joystick mechanism includes reaction force generation means for generating a reaction force such that said reaction force increases at a third rate with respect to an operation angle of said joystick mechanism when said operation angle is not greater than a reference operation angle and at a fourth rate with respect to said operation angle of said joystick mechanism when said operation angle is greater than said reference operation angle, said fourth rate being greater than said third rate in order to inform the operator that said value of said pivoting speed command signal increases at said second rate.

5. (Previously presented) The video camera pivoting apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said reaction force generation means comprises first and second springs respectively having first and second spring constants, said reaction force is generated by

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said first spring when said operation angle is not greater than said reference operation angle, and said reaction force is generated by said first and second springs when said operation angle is greater than said reference operation angle.

6. (Previously presented) The video camera pivoting apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second spring constant is greater than said first spring constant.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A video camera pivoting apparatus comprising:

pivoting means for pivoting a video camera at a pivoting speed, said video camera including a zoom mechanism and zoom amount signal generation means for generating a zoom amount signal;

pivoting speed command signal generating means responsive to an operation for generating a pivoting speed command signal; and

speed controlling means for controlling said pivoting speed in accordance with said zoom amount signal and said pivoting speed command signal;

said pivoting speed command signal generating means having a joystick mechanism to generate said pivoting speed command signal such that a value of said pivoting speed command signal assumes a maximum value when said operation angle of said joystick mechanism is greater than a reference operation angle and is smaller than a maximum operation angle of said joystick mechanism.